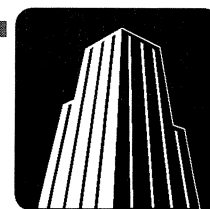


# Institutions & Organizations

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## Yucca Mountain Nuclear Repository Gets Congressional Okay

*This news item is reprinted from "What's New @ IEEE-USA Eye On Washington" of 26 July 2002.*

On 9 July, the U.S. Senate joined the U.S. House of Representatives in approving the proposed siting of a national nuclear-waste repository at Yucca Mountain in Nevada. The president signed the measure on 23 July, noting that "the successful completion of the Yucca Mountain project will ensure our nation has a safe and secure underground facility that will store nuclear waste in a manner that protects our environment and our citizens." The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) must now apply to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for a license to operate the site. It is anticipated that the NRC review will take 3-4 years, with waste shipments to Yucca Mountain beginning around 2010, barring any unforeseen legal obstacles.

## U.S. Governors Outline New Approach to Interstate Electricity Transmission

*This news item is reprinted from "What's New @ IEEE-USA Eye On Washington" of 26 July 2002.*

The National Governors Association (NGA) Task Force on Electricity Infrastructure released a report calling for creation of Multi-State Entities (MSEs) in the United States to coordinate the planning, certification, and siting of electric transmission facilities between states. The proposal drew the endorsement of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) chair Pat Wood, who noted, "this voluntary process fully retains state authority and requires each state to consider neighboring states' needs so that regional solutions are developed. A regional process, which considers benefits for an entire market territory, is vastly superior to a process

that pits the interests of individual states against each other."

For more information, see the NGA Task Force report at <http://www.nga.org/cda/files/interstatestrategiesplanning.pdf>.

## FERC Caps California Prices

*This news item is reprinted from "What's New @ IEEE-USA Eye On Washington" of 26 July 2002.*

On 17 July 2002, the U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Agency (FERC) released a price mitigation plan designed to help stabilize the California bulk power market. A \$250/MWh bid cap was set for all sales in the Western Energy Coordinating Council (WECC) beginning 1 October 2002. In its announcement, FERC also warned that adequate generation and transmission infrastructure was the key ingredient to insulating customers from reliability problems and price fluctuations. See the FERC notice at <http://www.ferc.gov/news/pressreleases/July-17-2002.pdf>.

## Canada Gives Tax Breaks To Boost Renewable Energy

The source of this news item is Reuters.

Canada, under fire for dragging its feet on whether to ratify the Kyoto climate-change accord, said on 2 August 2002 that it would use tax breaks to encourage investment in renewable energy and energy conservation projects.

Deputy Prime Minister John Manley announced two proposed changes to income tax rules that he said would make it financially attractive to build wind turbines and ensure that renewable energy projects could raise financing in the same way as nonrenewable energy projects.

In the last federal budget, which was presented in December 2001, the government said it would give C\$260 million (US\$164 million) to the wind power industry to increase current production of 200 megawatts to 1,000 megawatts by 2016.

Signing up to the 1997 Kyoto treaty, designed to cut emissions of the greenhouse gases blamed for global warming, would oblige Canada to cut its emissions by 6% from 1990 levels, by 2010. As of 1999, Canada's emissions were already 15% higher than 1990 levels. Ottawa originally said it intended to ratify Kyoto this past June but then called for more consultations in the face of strong resistance from businesses, energy producers, and several provincial governments.

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